⚡W1TKZ⚡

The Spark Gap

May 1989

Not Available at Newsstands

**Official Journal
of the
Wellesley Amateur Radio Society**

President's Message

by Tom Kinahan, N1CPE

Since we last spoke, the ARRL study committee has decided that amateur radio should have a code-free license. Specifically, all present Technician-class licenses would henceforth be called "Technician Plus" with all the present privileges. A new class, called "Technician" would be created, allowing Technician privileges above 30 MHz except on two meters, where operation would be limited to digital (read packet) modes, between 144.9 and 145.1 MHz.

The present pool of examination questions for the Technician license would be beefed up and the exam would contain 30 questions (instead of the present 25). Those holding the new "Technician" license could get "Technician Plus" by simply passing the five-word-per-minute code test.

In my humble opinion, this is the best proposal around. It leaves the incentive to upgrade, and allows significant privileges at the entry level. Get a copy of the complete committee report, if you want more information on how they arrived at this recommendation. Note that this is not yet the position of the ARRL board, just a committee recommendation. You should let your ARRL director know how you feel, so he can take your concerns to the full board. Your ARRL director is

Tom Frenaye, K1KI
ARRL New England Division Director
23 Pinehurst Road
Unionville CT 06085

He will be glad to hear from you.

WARS Election

It is time once again to elect officers for the 1989-1990 club year. Nominations will close at the end of the May 18 meeting; please send your nominations to the club address on page 3 so they arrive before then. The actual election will take place at the June 15 meeting (next month's **Spark Gap** will contain a ballot).

Meetings

All meetings are onThursdays at 7:30 p.m.

May 18
June 1
June 15
July 20

211 Washington Street, Wellesley

NG1I Riposte

by Frank MacKenzie-Lamb, NG1I

WARNING: Do not attempt to read this if suffering from acute high blood pressure!

Much has been said about no-code proposals, but perhaps Bruno, NR1G, said it best in last month's **Spark Gap** when he referred to the "Tower of Babel". I also found interesting the statement of Tom, N1CPE: "...we do not want amateur radio diluted, but perhaps the need to grow means we have to take that risk...." And a risk it is.

Officers

President:
Tom Kinahan, N1CPE 508/ 877-3456

Vice President:
Rita Baker, N1DDI 508/ 481-0863

Treasurer:
C. J. McDonald, WB1BUM
617/ 332-6091

Recording Secretary:
Roger Smith, W1EOA 617/ 235-6239

Corresponding Secretary:
Kathy Pate, KA1IYR 508/ 785-1801

Fundraising Chairman:
David Kent, N2AWG 508/ 875-2126

Operations Chairman:
Vern Valero, ND1Z 508/ 533-6822

Dilution may mean different things to different people, but one only has to look at the lessons of history to see what happens when similar risks have been taken. The no-code license should be seen as a form of apology by the ham community for not actively pursuing a long-range program of youth involvement during the last twenty-five years.

Both the Roman and Holy Roman Empires risked their very existences when, at the climax of their power they permitted their opponents to enter the ruling hierarchy. In education, we have relaxed our standards in technical colleges throughout the nation so as to attract additional college students and more highly trained technocrats into our society, only to see our technology eclipsed by that of several smaller nations of the world.

These few short lessons in history (there are more) point up what is happening to amateur radio today. Like the ancient, mighty empires, we too are in the twilight of our existence, keeping our finger in the dike. It may be that our only hope of survival is to populate the bands at all costs, but just suggesting so advertises our weakness.

Perhaps, in order not to fight the inevitable, and to continue my enjoyment of ham radio, I should accept that ours is a world of compromise, and I should therefore support the ARRL's no-code proposal with only minor changes and language clarification.

I keep hearing how we already have slob ham operators on 75 meters, even though we have a code requirement. Is this supposed to make me feel better? I guess this statement is intended to poop the wind out of the no-code opponents' sails.

The Spark Gap
Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

Editor:
Arthur W. Anderson, NT1M
P. O. Box 9009
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02181
617/ 449-0556

The Spark Gap is published monthly, except July and August, by the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society. The Society hereby grants permission for reprinting any articles from The Spark Gap, provided only that the author and this newspaper are credited.

The Society's purpose is to encourage participation in amateur radio. Membership is open to all radio amateurs; dues are $15 per year (September through August). Meetings of the Society are held on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The Society conducts classes for those intending to take FCC license examinations, and examination sessions four times a year. For more information please write to the editor, or to the Society:

The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society
211 Washington Street
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02181

With this logic, we should attempt to reduce drug-related crime by cutting back enforcement efforts on the streets; or by reducing entrance requirements of medical schools so as not to lock out those "highly motivated, interested" students who have no interest in biology or chemistry.

I imagine it will be a long time before anybody again asks my opinion, but I say, if you must, go ahead and "take that risk".

Best 73s, and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

)(evious BBS

Our list of computer bulletin boards last month failed to list ")(evious", which is owned and operated by our own Nels Anderson, K1UR. The number is 508/ 875-3618, or, in the Boston area, 617/ 449-7322. Other specs —

Baud rates and modems —
Node 1: 300/1200/2400 Prometheus ProModem 2400
Node 2: 300/1200/2400/9600 USRobotics Courier

Computer: Smart Micro 80386/AT 20 MHz; Seagate 84 mb disk drive

Software: PCBoard 14.0/E3

The system is available round the clock with two incoming lines. Files for MS-DOS and Apple II computers are available. Currently there are fifteen conferences on various topics — five computer-related, as well as people, science fiction, puzzles, etc.)(evious will soon be a member of PCRelay, thereby adding many nationally relayed conferences. Ten doors are available for advanced transfer protocols, offline mail readers, and several contests.

Nels writes: "In four weeks of operation under the new system, we have served more than 300 users and received more than 1500 calls. Users are from all over the U.S., plus a couple from Europe and one in Israel. Since the current configuration is still quite new, expansion of features is planned for the near future."

Nuptials

A breathless Wellesley ARS heaved a sigh of relief when Frank, N1FWI, and Sue, N1FWJ, announced their engagement on April 4 (the eighth anniversary of their first date). **The Spark Gap** has learned that Frank proposed to Sue in Morse code (text of transmission: WILL YOU MARRY ME?) on April Fool's Day; confusion over his intentions led to the delay until April 4.

The wedding date is 06 May 1990.

Mass QSO Party

Logs have begun to arrive at the club from contestants. Tom, N1CPE, will be organizing a log-examination party in early May, and needs several helpers; be the first on your block to volunteer.

Boston/Montreal "ParticipAction Challenge"

Diane Duffy, the organizer of this event, appeared at our May 4 meeting to ask for ham volunteers to conduct health-and-welfare communications.

The idea is that thousands of individuals in both cities will work out for fifteen minutes, and the city signing up the most participants wins.

The event runs from 7am to 11pm, but they need hams primarily from 10am to 2pm, and again from 4pm to 10pm. Please call Dianne Duffy at 617/ 536-6950 for details.

Union Hamfest

This event will be held on Union Fairgrounds (Union, Maine, on Route 17 near Rockland) July 15, 8am to 2pm. There will be an outdoor flea market, technical programs, and an exam session. Admission is $2 for buyers, $3 for sellers. Sixty campsites are available at $10. Talk-in on 146.82 MHz. For more information, contact KA1RFB, PO Box 84, East Vassalboro ME 04935.

Soviet Ham Magazine

Infotech Ham Magazine is a new English-language publication, available to Americans by direct subscription. The new periodical will cover Soviet DX and DXpedition news, ham-to-ham visits, technical topics, and Soviet radio clubs, among many other topics. An airmail subscription to the United States costs $36, payable to Account N 61901005 VNESHBANK SSSR, Minsk Belbyttehnika. For more information, write to

Infotech Magazine
PO Box 41
220050 Minsk
USSR

Final Report on the Novice Class

by Frank MacKenzie-Lamb, NG1I

At the time of this writing (26 April 1989) the WARS Novice class has come to a successful completion, graduating eleven new Novices out of a class of thirteen. At press time, many had received their call signs:

Bruce Pigott	KA1TOW
Steve Campisano	KA1TOU
Charlie Madden	KA1TOY
Mary and Earl Durst	
Ross Sherbrooke	
Thomas McGee	KA1TOX
Harold "Bill" Bailey	KA1TTL

Ken Matthews	
Charles Spooner	KA1TQA
Walter Littlefield	

Special note must be taken of Harold ("call me Bill") Bailey, who said he waited 54 years for this moment. He did not give up on the code test, staying with it for five consecutive test sessions over six weeks. Such persistence and perseverance is admirable.

I wish to thank all the WARS members who assisted Roger and me, particularly Jerry, NV1T, for coming out on a Monday night and a Saturday morning to assist the last candidates on their way.

Several of our new Novices have become WARS members, so let us give them a warm welcome, involve them in our activities, and prove to them that we have one of the outstanding clubs in the area. They will have questions as they attempt to get on the air, so if you can help them please volunteer your services.

With that, Roger and I pass our 73s to all for this year, and with a sigh of relief look forward to a little rest and hamming of our own. To our students: It has been an extreme pleasure to meet all of you and we look forward to growing with you in ham radio.

New Call Signs and New Members

Since the April Issue, the following members have received new call signs:

Steve Campisano	KA1TOU	N
Charlie Madden	KA1TOY	N
Bruce Pigott	KA1TOW	N
Charles Spooner	KA1TQA	N
Roger Sullivan	N1GKW	T

And the following are new members:

Bill Bailey	KA1TTL	N
Richard Barnett	KA1PYJ	N
Ed Friedman	KA1SAX	N
Bill Kierstaad	N1DYO	G
Tom McGee	KA1TOX	N

Congratulations and welcome to all. As of 04 May, our membership stands at 104, a record, so far as The Spark Gap has been able to determine.

RAIN Net

The Radio Amateurs' Interstate Weather Net (RAIN) is returning to the air on the Westborough repeater (145.270 MHz) sometime this month. They are looking for several net control stations, alternate NCSs, and reporting stations. The net will meet seven days a week, at 6pm.

RAIN is a part of the Commonwealth's emergency weather-warning system. During weather warnings, the net goes into emergency session to provide continuous reporting of temperature, pressure, wind, and sky.

For further information, write to

Marc Stern, N1BLH
555 Worcester Road
Framingham 01701

DX News

by Art Anderson, NT1M

We are embarrassed to report that after last month's piece on F6FNU, we received from him the card we had requested, for a QSO with FM5WU (Martinique), even though we had sent only one "green stamp" (he is said to require two). Also, our Bulgarian friend

Boyko, LZ1QN, reports that neither he nor his club, which has won all sorts of international awards, has had anything but exemplary service from F6FNU. Our reporting was based on that of *The DX Magazine* rather than firsthand knowledge, which was shoddy journalism on our part. We shall stay with the story, but henceforth report only hard news.

The mysterious transmission reported last month was identified by Tom, N1CPE, as coming from Oscar-9. Oscar-9 is now in the final throes of orbital decay, and will become a meteorite any day now.

On April 28, we turned the rig on shortly before 1200z to catch the W1AW bulletin, and happened to hear (from the next room) the tail-end of the 15wpm code practice. Amongst the call signs being transmitted was that of Roger, W1EOA; we rushed to investigate. The practice text turned out to be from the February 1989 *QST*, which listed Roger as having received endorsement for 332 countries! Now, the current DXCC list contains only 323 countries, so the magnitude of Roger's achievement is evident. So is his modesty, because we would not have found him out except by this extraordinary accident.

The Westlink Report warns us not to waste postage on 4Q2POP, which claimed to be a station on "Starbuck Island". There is a Starbuck Island at 5°37'S, 155°55'W, in the Line Islands, but the 4Q prefix belongs to Sri Lanka. (And phonetically, the call seems too good to be true.) We are also warned to ignore the station signing C0AX.

For SSB fans: ZS8MI, op Peter, is reported to be more active now from Marion Island. Look for him at 21230 kHz or 28435 kHz (listening up 20, or sometimes down 5 or 10) at 1800z on weekends; also 14145 kHz about 0430-0530z. Marion Island is in the Prince Edward Group, about 1200 nautical miles southeast of Cape Town, at 46°55'S, 37°45'E.

Broadcast station HCJB (Ecuador) airs a weekly show called "Ham Radio Today", hosted by John Bech, HC1QH. The show is beamed toward the United States on Thursdays at 0200z (i.e., 10pm Wednesdays here) and repeated at 0600z. For details, write to

HCHB
PO Box 691
Quito, Ecuador

Notice to Members: *QST* Magazine (and *73*)

When you subscribe to *QST*, you become a member of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), our national society. Membership also gives you access to the QSL bureau and is required for many popular awards (WAS, DXCC, etc.).

When you join the ARRL, or renew your membership, please do so through the WARS, because we get a commission. Send your ARRL dues by check made payable to the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society, to the club address on page 3. Our treasurer will then extract our commission and remit net to the ARRL. If you send your dues direct to the ARRL, we get no commission, so this is "found money" for the club.

Likewise for *73* magazine: except in this case, the check should be made out to 73 instead of the club. We get a commission back on each subscription.

Wanted

Harry, W1LMU, is still looking for a set of coils for the HRO-60. Call him at 617/ 527-4269.